

REMARKS:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 27, 2006, claims 10, 20, and 30 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 15, and 25 have been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claims 10, 20, and 30, respectively; allowable claims 5, 7, 9, 14, 24, 27, 29, 32, 33, 38, and 40 have been rewritten in independent form; and claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 13, 15-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 28, 31, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,749,909 ("the Schroeppe et al. reference"), and claims 1-4, 13, 25, 26, 31, 36, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,082,097 ("the Mann et al. reference").

First, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 7, 9-12, 14, 20, 24, 27, 29, 30, 32-35, 37, 38, and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5, 7, 9, 14, 24, 27, 29, 32, 33, 38, and 40 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 15, and 25 have been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claims 10, 20, and 30, respectively, and therefore should now be allowable. Dependent claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 1. The remaining dependent claims should now depend from allowable claims, and therefore should also be allowable. Accordingly, all of the pending claims in the present application should be allowable.

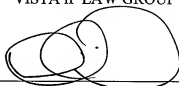
It is respectfully submitted that all rejections have been overcome by the above amendments. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

VISTA IP LAW GROUP LLP

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. English", is written over a horizontal line.

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